

22. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 20, wherein the honeycomb structure is constructed of ferritic stainless steel that does not contain Mo.

23. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 20, wherein the catalyst layer is a noble metal formed on the honeycomb structure.

24. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 23, wherein the noble metal is platinum.--

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the through consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 9, 10, 13 and 14-24 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicant's claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that the Applicant's claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

DRAWINGS

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Official Draftsman has approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicants. Concerning Fig. 3, as the Examiner will note, page 4 of the specification has been amended to refer to numeral "2" as illustrated in Fig. 3. The drawings now comply with the requirements of the USPTO.

SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to a misspelled word on page 6 of the specification. As the Examiner will note, page 6 has been corrected to incorporate the Examiner's helpful suggestion. In addition, the specification has been reviewed to comply with U.S. patent practice. The Examiner's objection to the specification has been obviated.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Whittenberger et al, U.S. 5,651,906 in view of Kohno et al, U.S. 5,653,825. Claims 3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Whittenberger et al, U.S. 5,651,906 in view of Kohno et al, U.S. 5,653,825 and further in view of Yokokoji et al, U.S. 4,925,634. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As acknowledged by the Examiner in his Office Action, the Whittenberger et al patent does not disclose the composition of the material that is used to form the cylindrical case cover.

The Examiner relied on the Kohno et al patent for apparently disclosing the use of Mo. In reviewing the Kohno et al patent it is noted that the table set forth on pages 7-8 does not disclose the use of Mo. Only examples 20 and 23, as set forth in the table on page 9-10 disclose the use of Mo. In addition, the Kohno et al patent merely discloses that the Mo should be not more than 2.0% by weight.

In contradistinction to the prior art relied on by the Examiner, the present invention is directed to a combination of elements wherein the Mo is in the range of 0.30wt% and

2.50wt%. In addition, as set forth in claims 15-24, the weight percent of Mo is 1.20wt%. It is respectfully submitted that the combination of elements as set forth in the present invention clearly defines patentable subject matter over the patents relied on by the Examiner.

The Yokokoji et al was relied on for merely disclosing the use of a catalytic converter in combination with a muffler. Since the Yokokoji et al does not overcome the deficiencies of the prior art, nor render obvious the subject matter as set forth in the claims, the Examiner's objection is believed to be obviated.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

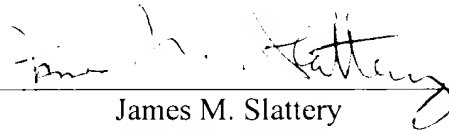
A prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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